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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 41% Partly Cloudy Sensex 73,502 | Nifty 22,332 | Gold 66,075 | Silver 74,414 | Dollar 82.76 | Euro 90.36 | GBP 106.01

Why forest department cannot engage fire department's quick response vehicles to fight fires this season

TRIAL BY FOREST FIRE

Crisis due to scrapping of vehicles older than 15 years

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

OG MPANGO/UNSPLASH

During this ongoing season, the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has to manage forest fires on its own. Officials from the department confirmed to BM that they do not have Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services (KSFES) vehicles this year to assist them.

This is after a notification last year from the Road Transport and Highway Ministry that scrapped vehicles older than 15 years owned by central and state governments.

"We do not have the fire department's Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs) this year. Every fire season, the fire department would deploy over 30 QRVs to fight forest fire incidents in sensitive areas. However, due to a shortage of these emergency vehicles, we are engaging traditional methods to douse a fire," said a senior official from KFD.

The department has made makeshift arrangements in the absence of KSEFS' emergency vehicles.

"We have used CAMPA vehicles that we use to transport cages, rations, etc. We have fitted these vehicles with plastic water tanks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Every fire season, the fire department would deploy over 30 QRVs to fight forest fire incidents in sensitive areas**
>
> — official, Karnataka Forest Department

Kere Mitras at 186 lakes

From first set of 690 applications, BBMP has selected 124 Kere Mitras

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As of now, BBMP has finalised Kere Mitra volunteers for 124 lakes, we are told. The BBMP lakes department has received a second set of volunteer applications which is being analysed.

Factoring in civic responsibility into lake maintenance, Bengaluru devised the Kere Mitra programme wherein lake volunteers assigned by BBMP will oversee the maintenance of lakes.

Initially, there were low numbers of applications for the Kere Mitra initiative but BBMP has received 762 applications so far. From the first set of 690 applications, the civic body has selected 124 Kere Mitras.

In the second set, BBMP has received 72 applications. Palike is to finalise Kere Mitras for 62 lakes by March 15.

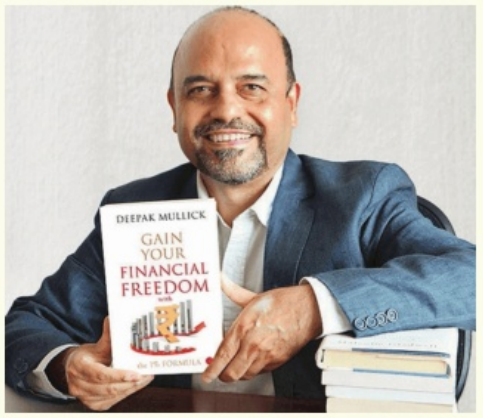
According to BBMP officials, the project will span over 186 of the 205 lakes within the BBMP limits. There are 19 inactive lakes within BBMP limits that won't be considered for the Kere Mitra initiative. A few lakes that got added to BBMP limits — including Madivala, Hebbal and Nagawara — won't be considered for the project.

The citizen volunteer programme of BBMP started in January 2024 and has been inviting applications from citizens. After the launch of the initiative, BBMP received applications and zeroed in on 124 lakes. Struggling to get responses for the remaining lakes, the BBMP special commissioner (forest, environment, and climate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Path to financial freedom

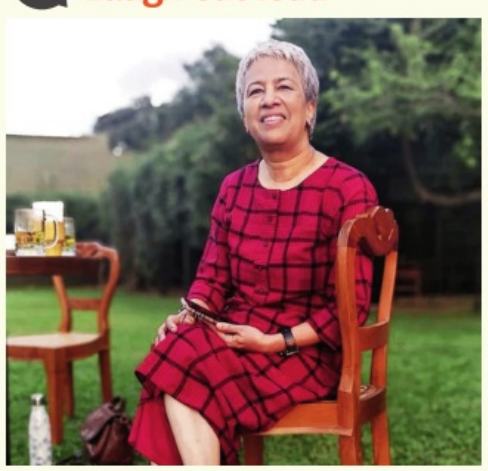


Are you seeking financial independence but feeling overwhelmed by the myriad of investment options? Join us for an enlightening discussion with Deepak Mullick, a seasoned expert in the Mutual Fund industry.
Where: Atta Galatta
When: March 17, 4 pm onwards

02 Trendy showcase

Start the new season in style with India's trendsetting fashion showcase at the HI LIFE EXHIBITION! Explore an exquisite array of designer wear, jewellery, and much more. Don't miss this opportunity to make a style statement and elevate your wardrobe with the latest fashion trends.
Where: The Lalit Ashok
When: March 12 to 14, 10 am to 8 pm

03 Laugh out loud



Join writer Gouri Dange for a hilarious take on the world of publishing! Whether you're a published author, an aspiring writer, or just curious about the industry, Gouri's comedic insights will leave you in stitches.
Where: Atta Galatta
When: March 15, 7.30 pm

Hypertension increase: Wake up call for healthier living

City-based institute reports 24.1% increase in hypertension cases; urges emphasis on prevention and awareness

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Statistics from a city-based institute show that there was a rise in the number of hypertension cases last year compared to 2022. Over a 24.1 per cent increase in hypertension cases was observed, highlighting the need for mitigating a healthy lifestyle to reduce such incidents.

In the January-December 2022 period, the Jindal Naturecure Institute received 3,165 patients suffering from hypertension, while the number increased to 3,928 from January-December 2023, marking a substantial surge of approximately 24.1 per cent. This increase was observed consistently across both male and female patients.

Also, in the past year, the institute treated a total of 4,111 diabetes patients, with 2,465 being males and 1,646 females. The age range spanned from a minimum of 30 to a maximum of 79 years.

Dr Babina NM, Chief Medical Officer of Jindal Naturecure Institute, said, "Hypertension cases were predominantly observed among individuals aged 30-80 years, with males accounting for 47.7 per cent and females for 52.3 per cent of the cases, according to our data. Unfortunately, hypertension control programmes in India often receive inadequate attention, funding, and prioritisation. Strengthening these programmes should be an integral part of India's journey towards achieving universal health coverage. Embracing a healthy lifestyle is paramount to mitigating the risks of hypertension and diabetes. This includes incorporating regular physical activity, maintaining a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and minimising salt and sugar intake."

In the past year, the institute treated a total of 4,111 diabetes patients, with 2,465 being males and 1,646 females. The age range spanned from a minimum of 30 to a maximum of 79 years

The World Health Organisation highlights the critical impact of hypertension on mortality and disability in India. The 2019–2020 National Family Health Survey reported a prevalence of 24 per cent in men and 21 per cent in women, emphasising the need for increased awareness and management.

Dr Babina added, "Quitting alcohol, managing stress effectively, and prioritising regular health check-ups are also essential for early detection and management of these conditions. By adopting these strategies, individuals can safeguard their health and pave the way for a happier and healthier future."

Furthermore, a staggering 11.4 per cent of India's population, equivalent to 101 million people, are living with diabetes, and an additional 136 million people are pre-diabetic.

Dr Babina said, "Prevention is the need of the hour, especially with the rising incidences of non-communicable diseases in India. Everyone has witnessed the impact of leading a healthy lifestyle on our well-being during Covid. We actively advocate for preventive measures, patient education, and the overall well-being of each individual through Naturopathy treatment."

Run by K'taka police applauds youth with HIV

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

It was a memorable moment for 11 youths born and living with HIV who participated in the Karnataka Police Run 10k/5k programme to create awareness about drug abuse and mark the Karnataka State Police Golden Jubilee on Sunday. They were happy when they were appreciated by Home Minister Dr GK Parameshwar.

"I consider participating in the 10k run a matter of pride. They gave me an opportunity to run alongside policemen and others. It was an open category, and it was a proud moment for me," said Manik Prabhu, an HIV-positive individual who hails from Bidar and has participated in marathons for the last 15 years.

Expressing a similar opinion, Sanjay R, who is HIV positive and from Ramanagar, said that it was his first time taking part in an event organised by the state government. "I was very happy when an announcement was made on the stage about our participation in the 10k run. Organisers treated us with great respect, and it was a memorable moment for me," said Sanjay.

Bangalore Schools Sports Foundation, established in 2009, conceptualised 'Champion In Me,' an exclusive sports programme for children and youth born and living with HIV, with the objective of eradicating stigma and discrimination and bringing them into the mainstream community, enabling them with the "Right to play sport" and creating equal opportunities to compete at state, national, and international levels.

Elvis Joseph, Founder Director of Bangalore Schools Sports Foundation and project 'Champion In Me,' said that he believes that individuals identified as HIV-positive can be enabled, empowered, and uplifted by creating a supportive and inclusive platform where they can unleash their potential and pursue excellence in various aspects of life.

He said that the Home Minister's appreciation for the 11 youngsters participating in the 10k run is a powerful message of acceptance and support from the government and society at large.

"It not only promotes inclusivity but also breaks down barriers of stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS, fostering a more compassionate and understanding community, serving social changes, raising awareness with a more equitable and supportive society for all," he said.

Stopped dead on Bengaluru's lethal roads

170 died in 60 days in road accidents; speeding and disregard for traffic rules said to be major drivers of fatalities

Two-wheelers bear the brunt of law enforcement too

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865 accidents reported in the city in 2024 so far, among these, 169 were fatal, resulting in the loss of 172 lives

Recent data released by the Bengaluru traffic police has shed light on the concerning state of road safety in the city as more than 170 people have died on city roads in 60 days. Despite ongoing efforts to curb accidents and enforce traffic regulations, the number of fatal accidents in the city is still on a rise as on an average more than two people are dying daily due to accidents.

According to the report by the traffic police, 865 accidents were reported in the city during the first two months of 2024. Among these, 169 were fatal, resulting in the loss of 172 lives. Additionally, 696 non-fatal accidents occurred, leaving 737 individuals injured.

Last year, the city had recorded the highest number of accidents in a decade and the data for 2024 doesn't look good either.

According to a police official, accidents are following the same trend that they did last year and are mostly due to speeding and due to motorists not following traffic rules.

Delving deeper into the data, it becomes evident that some traffic violations are alarmingly prevalent. With a staggering 6,62,143 cases booked, riding without a helmet emerged as the most common offence.

It is also revealed that two-wheelers bore the brunt of law enforcement, with a total of 757,116 cases booked against them. This trend correlates with the high incidence of helmet-related violations observed in the city. Light motor vehicles (LMVs) also contributed significantly to the violation tally, with 81,004 cases recorded against them.

Surprisingly, buses emerged as notable offenders, with 7,286 cases booked despite their comparatively lower numbers. Auto rickshaws, goods vehicles, and tempos were also implicated with less than 1 percent contribution in the total offences.

BM had reported on March 10 that helmetless riders top violations list

Suspect 'in a way' identified

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Thursday said sleuths investigating into the March one blast at the city's popular eatery 'The Rameshwaram Cafe' have "in a way" identified the suspect, and efforts are on to nab him.

He said the investigators are verifying the suspect's identity and are "getting closer to him."

Investigation into the blast, caused by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), at the quick-service eatery in Brookefield area in information technology corridor in east Bengaluru that left ten people injured, is being carried by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is being assisted by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police.

"Investigations are going on, we are closing in, in a way who the person (suspect) is has been identified. It has to be confirmed and he has to be nabbed. They are doing it, NIA is doing it, and CCB is doing it with them. They have got good leads," Parameshwara said.

On the trail of the suspect, the sleuths investigating the case had visited Tumakuru, Ballari, and Kalaburagi. —PTI

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Drought calls for aggressive groundwater management

City experts emphasise the importance of recharge methods to avert future water crises

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Lack of effective groundwater management strategies such as active recharge methods and demand management has led to the current water crisis in Bengaluru, say city-based groundwater experts.

They say groundwater management can avert similar water crises in the future and go a long way if supplemented with measures such as wastewater reuse, demand management, etc.

"Groundwater mismanagement has a major role to play in the ongoing water crisis. While for this summer we might have to tide over by managing demand, in the longer run, knowing that the city is heavily dependent on this resource, we need to look at aggressive groundwater recharge methodologies and better monitoring of the city's groundwater table," said Shubha Ramachandran, water team lead at Biome Environmental Trust.

While multiple rules and laws govern this precious resource, experts say there is a lack of implementation and strict adherence.

According to Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Bye-Laws 2003 and BWSSB Amendment Act, 2009, a structure within BBMP's jurisdiction or with a Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) connection must have a recharge well. If the property has a built-up area exceeding 100 square metres on a site area of 200 square metres (BBMP) or a built-up area of 1,200 square feet and above on a site area of 2,400 square feet and above (BWSSB), a recharge well of a minimum of one-metre diameter and six-metre depth is mandatory.

> **How we manage our solid and liquid waste plays an important role in ensuring quality. Water crises might come and go, but water quality is permanent**
>
> –a city-based expert.

"This rule has not been implemented well. Apart from making these structures mandatory during approval of building plans, inspections post-construction are important too. A participatory system can be created whereby citizen volunteer groups can monitor and create soft pressure to implement this rule," added Ramachandran.

While improvement in the water table is of utmost importance, ensuring water quality through solid and liquid waste management is critical too.

"How we manage our solid and liquid waste plays an important role in ensuring quality. Water crises might come and go, but water quality is permanent. This can be ensured through policy interventions and enforcement. However, to ensure greater thought process and management models in this area, there should be a dedicated department for groundwater in BWSSB," said a city-based expert.

Experts also underline the need for spatial data of all the borewells in Bengaluru and across the state with information such as borewell depth, water quality, yield, and recharge structure, to sketch an effective management strategy. They say this information should be available in the public domain and authorities must look at recharging these aquifers along with reviving old open wells.

"A map of all the borewells with information such as borewell depth, water quality, yield, and recharge structure can be created. While borewells are being dug indiscriminately, there is a complete lack of information on the city's aquifers. This will help us in making informed decisions on actions to be taken for effective water management. However, it has to be done carefully as this can lead to real estate practices that gravitate toward areas with high water tables. It should drive the correct kind of action around the management of aquifers," added Ramachandran.

Citizens oppose C&D waste dumping near lake

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A section of residents living near Subedeharana Lake in Begur has opposed the dumping of Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste around the water body. Locals say that the waste, in large amounts, is being dumped in the buffer zone of the lake by a private contractor, posing the risk of encroachment.

"C&D waste in large quantities has been dumped around the lake for many days now. We reached out to Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Lake department and highlighted the issue. After that, officials sent a notice to the contractor, asking them to stop the activity immediately. However, it has continued, and the land around the lake is being filled fast with debris," said a resident of the area.

Construction dump near Subedeharana Lake

When Bangalore Mirror contacted BBMP's Lake Department, officials acknowledged receiving the complaint.

"We are aware of the situation, and we sent a notice to the contractor as well. However, since the buffer zone of any waterbody is out of our purview, we could not take the matter forward. We have informed the zonal engineer of BBMP about the situation, and required action will be taken soon," said the official.

According to Poongothai Paramasivam, a resident and member of the Bengaluru Navanirman Party, there is a lack of clarity on the current lake boundary. While the waterbody has been fenced by the BBMP, it extends beyond the fence, leading to confusion.

"There is no clarity on the extent of the lake. The current fence runs through the lake, providing an opportunity for land grabbers. We have raised concerns regarding the current lake boundary as well," said Paramasivam.

BBMP officials say the lake boundary was fixed a few years ago through a survey. However, the lake is receiving a lot of sewage from nearby residential apartments, leading to the maximum water level and thus the overflow.

"Apartment complexes in the area are releasing sewage water into the lake; thus, it has reached the maximum water level and is passing through adjacent private land. While the fencing was done after a survey, we have decided to resurvey the lake again. Regarding sewage entry, we have written to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board for necessary action against the offenders," said the official.

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Pothole danger
Hosa Road

Numerous potholes on the road, opposite Aurinko Academy, require urgent repair to prevent accidents.

Damaged footpath
RT Nagar

The footpath along the main road adjoining Gangenahalli has been completely damaged for years.

More unclaimed cars
Ashok Nagar

This vehicle has been parked for three months on Shampura Main Road opposite Step Gas next to A1 Tiles Shop.

More taxing or just simpler times ahead?

New property tax system based on guidance value implemented

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In the face of opposition from certain segments of society, the State Government has introduced a new property tax system in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) areas. Under this system, taxes will be levied based on the guidance value rather than the previous zonal classifications. According to the new regulations, property taxes are expected to increase from 6.7% to 8.2%. Specifically, residential properties will see a 6.7% increase, commercial properties a 6.5% increase, industrial properties a 5.3% increase, star hotels a 6.6% increase, and vacant land an 8.2% increase.

Announcing this, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar who holds the Bengaluru development portfolio said, "The current Unit Area Value (UAV) Property Tax System, introduced in 2008, encompasses 18 distinct property categories, with the entire city divided into six zones, each with varying tax rates based on the then guidance value of these areas.

The 18 Property Categories overlap, granting officials discretion, but also causing confusion among citizens. Seven complex forms are required for citizens to file Self-Assessment Returns. This has resulted in numerous citizens incorrectly declaring their categories and zones, facing penalties and recoveries. Additionally, changes in guidance values since 2008 and the last revision in 2016 have led to disparities, where properties with lower guidance values are categorised in high-tax zones and vice versa. This situation is deemed irrational and unfair."

> **"Citizens only need to input their plot or land area, built-up area, and the use of their property online. Taxes are then calculated based on the current guidance value applicable to their property**

Aim to simplify system

He said that the main aim of the new property tax system is to simplify, rationalise, and establish a fair system, utilising individual property guidance values rather than a single tax rate based on an average guidance value in an area.

"Furthermore, it eliminates the 6-Zone structure and the complex 7 Forms needed for property returns. Citizens only need to input their plot or land area, built-up area, and the use of their property online. Taxes are then calculated based on the current guidance value applicable to their property. Citizens can contest the displayed guidance value online with supporting documents if a reduction is claimed, with a decision made by BBMP within three months, failing which the claim is deemed accepted. Property tax rates were last revised in 2016, with a 20% increase for residential properties and a 25% increase for non-residential properties. There has been no increase in the last eight years. The aim of the new system is not to increase the tax burden but to simplify and rationalise it," he said.

'Nominal rates'

He claimed a cap of 10% on increase has been imposed for each property per year. "Very nominal rates have been prescribed to fix property tax as a percentage of the guidance value. A dry run has been conducted on more than 18 lakh properties using the newly prescribed rates to ensure that the tax burden does not increase significantly. The overall impact of the new system is a mere 6.5% increase over the 2016 property tax," he said.

Have cotton candy, gobhi manchurian, but drop the artificial colour

The Karnataka government has banned the use of artificial colours in the popular gobhi manchurian dish and cotton candies liked by children, after a lab test found them carcinogenic.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao made this announcement in the Vidhana Soudha.

Based on complaints by public and media, the samples of gobhi manchurian and cotton candies sold out to people were collected from across the state and examined at the state laboratories, he stated.

Minister Rao explained: "171 samples of gobhi manchurian were collected, among which, 107 samples contained unsafe artificial colours. The unsafe colours such as tartrazine, sunset yellow and carmoisine were found."

"About 25 cotton candy samples were collected and 15 samples contained unsafe colours. In this, tartrazine, sunset yellow and Rhodamine –B unsafe colours were found. Rhodamine-B is carcinogenic. It can cause cancer if you consume it regularly and is banned. This is a serious issue as children often consume cotton candy. The use of this colour is illegal. It was used to get the pink colour for the cotton candy," Rao explained further.

The circular in this regard has been issued and awareness programmes will also be held. Strict legal action would be initiated in this regard. Further samples would be collected to initiate legal proceedings, he stated.

The artificial colours are unsafe under the Guidelines 3(1) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. As per the Rule 16.0 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, no artificial colours should be used to prepare the gobhi manchurian dish. "Hence, use of any artificial colour is prohibited," he stated.

In case of any violation, under the Food Safety and Standards Act, a case would be lodged in the court which attracts punishment of imprisonment of five years to life sentence. The fine of Rs 10 lakh will also be levied.

If the food with artificial colours is consumed for a long time, one could be affected with cancer. "The public is requested to not consume or to bring down consumption of food with artificial colours," he appealed. **IANS**

Need of the hour: Exclusive dept to tackle apartment owners' problems

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Former Karnataka Lokayukta Justice N Santosh Hegde has called upon apartment owners to demand that the state government establish a department to address their problems just like other segments have exclusive departments to redress grievances.

He was speaking at Apartment Law We Should Know, a seminar organised at St. Joseph's College of Law auditorium to discuss existing laws and the problems of apartment owners. "Representatives of different apartment owners' associations, before they meet the government officials, must prepare a draft emphasising on the need to have a separate department and submit a common representation to the government. I assure my full cooperation to that matter. And it is high time that we realise that we need a separate law and separate legal forum," said Justice Hegde.

Advocates' Association designated senior president Vivek Subba Reddy said Bengaluru was the fastest growing city not only in the country but also in Asia. "Apartment law is from the time you set out to buy an apartment and till the time it is delivered to you. Another big story will be after it is delivered. As of now the post-delivery story has a lot of legal grey areas," said Reddy.

Busting myths

Emphasising on the need to get clear titles when buying an apartment or flat, he said one must aproach a good lawyer who has a good track record. "The other misconception is thinking that the title is clear if that housing project is approved by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) but it is not. The RERA gives sanction to the housing project and ensures adherence to the timeline but it cannot give a guarantee on the title. Therefore you have to make an individual investigation on the title and ensure it is clear," he said.

Vinay T, a member of governing council of Bangalore Apartments' Federation said the association members are honorary members.

Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Sanchalak Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar said the state government needs to take action to ensure home buyers land rights are protected and release the draft of the Apartment Act that was announced by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in the Assembly. "Karnataka Home Buyers Forum had drafted the new Apartment Act in line with Odisha Apartment Act and submitted it to the Urban Development Department in December 2023," he said.

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‘Mockery of process’: Wildlife board not ready, panel all set

Conservationists alarmed as government forms committee without proper representation

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Government of Karnataka recently constituted the standing committee of the State Wildlife Board (SWLB), consisting of 11 members. As per a notification issued by the government on February 28, the committee has been formed by approval of the previous SWLB, whose tenure ended in October last year.

However, conservationists and wildlife activists have raised concerns about the process of constitution of this committee, saying it is not in line with the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), 1972.

They highlight that according to WLPA, while a standing committee is constituted for performing duties delegated to it by the SWLB, the committee should consist of members nominated from the board itself.

“The notification issued by the government on February 28 is illegal. As per the Act, SWLB should be in existence for the government to constitute its Standing Committee. However, not only has the committee been created, but its first meeting has also been held. This is a mockery of the process mandated under the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), 1972,” said a wildlife conservationist.

As per WLPA, the State Wildlife Board consists of the Chief Minister as chairperson, the Environment and Forest Minister as vice chairperson, three members of the state legislature, three persons representing non-government organisations dealing with wildlife, and ten eminent conservationists, ecologists, and environmentalists to be nominated by the state government, apart from others.

The Standing Committee should consist of a vice chairperson, a member secretary, and not more than ten members, to be nominated from amongst the members of SWLB.

> **“The committee formed has only official members. There is no representation of non-government organisations, environmentalists, etc**
>
> –city-based wildlife activist

“The committee formed has only official members. There is no representation of non-government organisations, conservationists, ecologists, and environmentalists. Given the situation, the functions of the Standing Committee come under scanner, especially in the absence of SWLB. The Board, moreover, is a statutory body and there should not be any delay in its formulation. This will only hamper conservation efforts,” said a city-based wildlife activist.

While the duty of the state wildlife board is to advise the government in the selection and management of areas to be declared as protected areas, formulate policies for the protection and conservation of wildlife, and tackle matters relating to the amendment of acts, the standing committee is supposed to perform duties delegated to it by the Board.

Experts say it is disheartening to see the process of constituting a Standing Committee getting diluted and SWLB yet to be reconstituted.

“While nomination for SWLB has already been made nearly four months ago, the file is yet to get clearance, leading to delay in the formation of SWLB,” said the activist.

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Applications are hereby invited for the position of **“Adviser on Company & Regulatory matters in KPTCL”** from eligible candidates.

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Eligibility Criteria:

(1) The applicant should possess necessary educational qualifications in the field of Business Management, Law, and Finance.

(2) The applicant should have relevant experience of not less than fifteen years in a State Transmission/Distribution Company and have worked in KPTCL/ESCOMs not below the equivalent rank of Chief Engineer/Executive Director. The candidate should have experience in the Power Sector as a Resource Person, assisting the Board & Managing Director on issues concerning First Generation Power Sector Reforms, Board-related proposals, Board Sub-committee related proposals, RTI issues and various other related statutory matters.

(3) The applicant should be fluent in the local language, i.e., Kannada and also English.

(4) Remuneration shall be decided based on mutual discussion.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their brief C.V. detailing Personal Details, Professional Details, and Experience, etc. along with a hard copy of the application to the Managing Director, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, Kaveri Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560009.

Applicants can also send a scanned copy of the application to the following e-mail id: **md@kptcl.com.**

The last date for submission of applications is **15.03.2024, until 5.00 pm IST.**

Sd/-Director (Administration & HR), KPTCL, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 009.

BM Trippin’ Tales — Consumer Connect Initiative

Chitradurga Fort: Where legends echo still

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Nestled amidst a cluster of rocky hills lies the awe-inspiring Chitradurga Fort, a historical gem with tales as intriguing as its architecture. Among the many forts in the vicinity, Chitradurga stands out as a testament to ancient engineering and military prowess.

With its towering walls and numerous gateways, the Chitradurga Fort has witnessed countless battles throughout history. Its sheer size is astounding, boasting 19 gateways, 38 postern gates, and 35 secret entrances, some of which remain shrouded in mystery to this day. But what’s truly remarkable is how this fortress was defended—with deep moats teeming with aquatic plants and reptiles like crocodiles, rendering it nearly impregnable.

Perched on seven tiers of rocky terrain, the fort’s imposing presence is enough to send shivers down one’s spine. As visitors explore its labyrinthine corridors and hidden chambers, they’ll uncover its rich history and secrets concealed within its ancient walls.

Obavvana Kindi

From mythological legends to tales of bravery, the Chitradurga Fort captivates all who dare to venture within its confines. One such legend involves the valiant Obavva, who single-handedly thwarted enemy forces attempting to infiltrate the fort through a narrow crevice, now known as Obavvana Kindi.

But the fort isn’t just a relic of the past—it’s a testament to ancient ingenuity and foresight. Its sophisticated rainwater harvesting system, designed to collect and distribute water throughout the fort, is a marvel of ancient engineering.

A visit to Chitradurga isn’t just a journey through history—it’s an exploration of art, architecture, and the resilience of the human spirit. So, whether you’re a history enthusiast or simply seeking adventure, Chitradurga Fort beckons with its tales of valour and intrigue.

How to reach:

Located 200 km from Bengaluru on the Bengaluru-Mumbai Highway, Chitradurga is easily accessible by road. Plan your visit early in the day or in the evening to avoid the scorching midday temperatures that characterise this region.

Visitors can delve into the heart of the fort’s history by exploring its various structures, including the circular well, believed to have been used for grinding gunpowder, and the intricate rainwater harvesting system that kept the fort self-sufficient even in times of scarcity. Additionally, the fort’s strategic location within the city of Chitradurga makes it a convenient destination for history enthusiasts and travellers alike.

Make the state climate resilient

K'taka set to join hands with consortium that strives to build sustainable cities

Karnataka is set to collaborate with the ClimateRISE Alliance, a consortium of civil society organisations and think-tanks, to build sustainable and climate-resilient cities, Vice-Chairman of Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission MV Rajeev Gowda announced on Monday.

According to him, the collaboration focuses on six pivotal themes. The agenda advocates integrated urban water management in Karnataka to address water scarcity, protecting water bodies and enhancing water quality across the state through a series of measures.

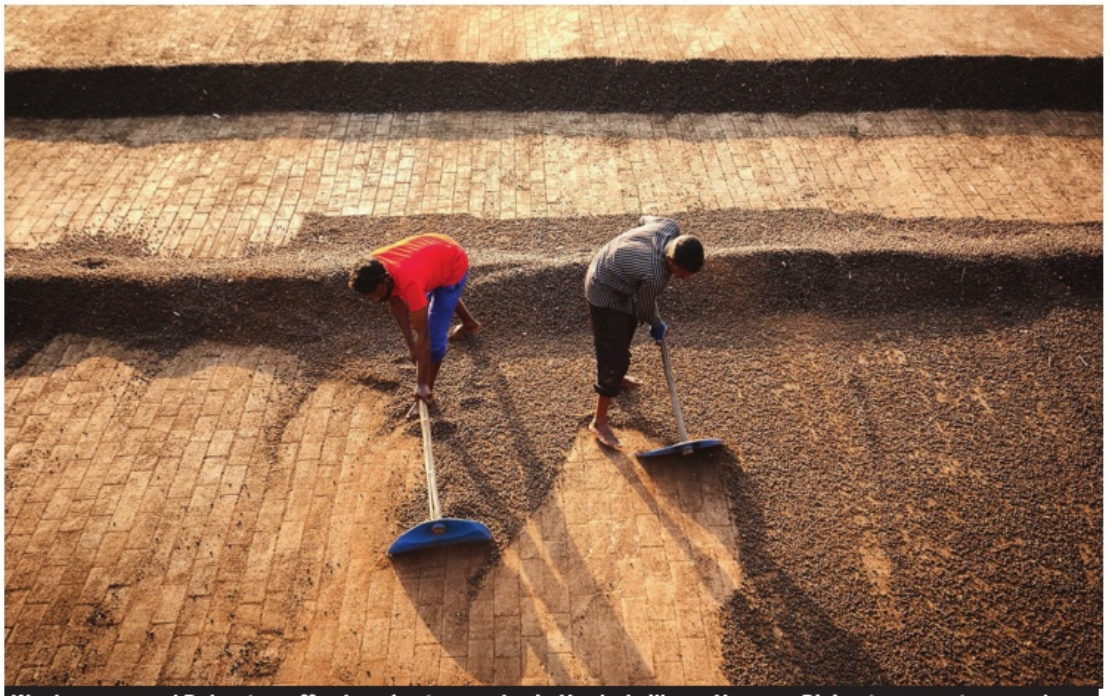
"Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission (KSPPC) is committed to making cities in Karnataka climate resilient. Our collaboration with ClimateRISE Alliance, and their wealth of knowledge, research, and analysis and on-ground experience, will lead to transformative initiatives that safeguard our urban environments and enhance the well-being of our communities," Gowda said.

The series of measures includes addressing knowledge, cost and skill gaps hindering rainwater harvesting and promoting the practice, developing aquifer and sub-aquifer-based understanding and plans for groundwater management.

Adopting a river basin approach for water management, utilising historical maps, satellite imagery and archival data to create comprehensive maps showing newer and traditional water sources and encouraging citizen participation through initiatives like 'Lake Mitras.'

Developing comprehensive plans for wastewater collection and treatment with a reuse perspective.

It also laid emphasis on gender equity and inclusion to ensure all initiatives prioritise the needs and perspectives of women, marginalised groups and people of different abilities.



Workers spread Robusta coffee berries to sun dry in Hanbal village, Hassan. Rising temperature and erratic weather patterns are forcing India's coffee growers to change the way they farm

In a statement, it said the agenda also includes promoting quality pedestrian infrastructure and safe public spaces accessible within short distances. Adoption of strategies for bringing jobs and businesses closer to mass-transit, suitable provisions for mixed-land use and robust first and last-mile connectivity through public transport for creation of self-sufficient neighbourhoods (the "15 minute cities" concept).

Implementing passive cooling solutions and cool roofs to combat urban heat, particularly in northern Karnataka, informed by the Karnataka State Heat Wave Action Plan 2022 as well as conserving and restoring blue and green assets like water features and green spaces for urban flood resilience.

> **"Initiate accelerator programme to encourage participation of women in green jobs to facilitate transition..."** –Part of agenda

It would also focus on encouraging adoption of Karnataka Energy Conservation Building Codes and green building techniques by enabling access to affordable materials and technology solutions, promoting low-carbon mobility systems such as public transport and electric vehicles.

"Establishing an incubator focused on innovative ways to increase climate resilience in Karnataka. Initiating an accelerator programme to encourage the participation of women in green jobs to facilitate the transition to a climate-progressive urban Karnataka," it said.

Developing and implementing a climate resilience roadmap for tier-two cities, focusing on reducing climate change risks and vulnerabilities, emphasis on citizen participation through institutional mechanisms for generating inputs, coordinating involvement, and localising and delivering on the climate resilience agenda and setting up a dedicated cell at the state level for climate action are some of the other agendas, according to the statement. —PTI

ISRO's new meteorological satellite starts earth imaging ops

ISRO on Monday said its meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS has initiated earth imaging operations, and released the first set of images captured by the on-board payloads (6-channel Imager and 19-channel Sounder).

The Imager and Sounder payloads are similar to the ones flown on INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR, but significant improvements have been achieved in radiometric accuracy, black body calibration, thermal management, and imaging throughput, among others.

The payloads were designed and developed at the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad. The first images are processed and released at the Master Control Facility, Hassan in Karnataka.

Noting that the 6-channel Imager equipment captures images of the earth's surface and atmosphere across multiple spectral channels or wavelengths, it said the use of multiple channels allows for gathering information about various atmospheric and surface phenomena, such as clouds, aerosols, land surface temperature, vegetation health, and water vapour distribution.

"The Imager could be configured to capture specific features of interest," ISRO said.

The 19-channel Sounder captures radiation emitted by the earth's atmosphere through channels carefully chosen to capture radiation emitted by different atmospheric constituents and properties like water vapour, ozone, carbon dioxide, and other gases, while others may be designed to measure temperature variations in different layers of the atmosphere, it added.

> **First set of images captured by the payloads on-board INSAT-3DS released by space organisation**

These payloads generate over 40 geophysical data products such as Sea Surface Temperature, Rainfall (precipitation) Products, Land Surface Temperature, Fog Intensity, Outgoing Longwave Radiation, Atmospheric Motion Vectors, High-Resolution Winds, Upper Tropospheric Humidity, Cloud Properties, Smoke, Fire, Mean Surface Pressure, Temperature Profiles, Water Vapor Profiles, Surface Skin Temperature and Total Ozone for the user community.

The data collected derives information about the vertical structure of the atmosphere, crucial for weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and understanding atmospheric processes, ISRO said.

The space agency said after completing orbit-raising operations, the satellite, launched on February 17, reached the designated geostationary slot for the In Orbit Testing (IOT) on February 28.

IOT of the Satellite Communications was conducted between February 29 and March 3. As part of Meteorological Payload IOT, the first session of imaging for Imager and Sounder payloads was carried out on March seven.

The payload parameters are found to be nominal, complying with payload specifications, it said, adding, thus, all the payloads of INSAT-3DS have been tested to perform nominally. —PTI

IN BRIEF

Hate crime by film actor's fans

A group of individuals who claim to be fans of actor Allu Arjun assaulted a man in the city recently. The police were alerted to the incident via social media and have taken action. A video circulating online shows the altercation, with one of the assailants instructing the victim to chant 'Jai Allu Arjun' to stop the assault. Despite the brutality, the victim remained resolute as he was dragged along the ground. The incident occurred near KR Puram, according to reports. The Police's official social media account acknowledged the incident and urged users to provide further information for necessary action. They also responded to claims that the victim, a fan of another actor, was targeted by Allu Arjun's supporters. —BMB

Territorial row: 6 arrested for murder

The West Division police have apprehended six individuals on Monday in connection with the fatal assault of Shiva, also known as Sharath or Vatte, aged 35, at Anjanappa Garden last Friday. The arrested individuals are Chandrasekhar, Shekhar, Manikantha, Kiran Chinnappa, Stephen, and Simbu.

According to police, the victim and the accused hailed from the same locality. Shiva, who had a history of criminal activities, allegedly subjected roadside vendors to extortion and also reportedly intimidated and harassed the accused, attempting to assert control over the area.

Allegedly unable to tolerate Shiva's persistent harassment, the accused collaborated with Stephen, recently released on bail in the murder case of former councilor Rekha Kadiresh. Executing their plan, armed with weapons, the accused assaulted and killed Shiva before fleeing the scene, the police stated.

The Cottonpet police, aided by a canine unit, received crucial assistance in the investigation. —BMB

Indira Canteens at airport

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday inaugurated two Indira canteens at Kempegowda International Airport to provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner at affordable prices for cab drivers and others.

"There was a demand from cab drivers and others to open one Indira canteen. We have opened two canteens for their benefit. Our objective is to provide food at an affordable price for the common man," said Siddaramaiah.

Two Indira canteens, including a kitchen, were constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 1.30 crore. Breakfast will be provided for Rs 5, lunch and dinner for Rs 10 each at these canteens. "We are starting 188 new Indira canteens in Bengaluru. Two canteens are being started as per the demand of taxi drivers and other drivers to start Indira canteens near the airpor," the CM said. —BMB

As LS polls loom, govt announces implementation of CAA

The Centre on Monday implemented the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, a move that comes four years after the contentious law was passed and paves the way for citizenship to undocumented non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

The rules were notified days ahead of the expected announcement of the Lok Sabha elections. With this, the Modi government will start granting Indian nationality to persecuted non-Muslim migrants -- Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians -- from the three countries.

Union Minister Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has delivered on another commitment and realised the promise of the makers of the Constitution.

File photo of a protest in Delhi against the Citizenship Amendment Act

"These rules, called the Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2024 will enable the persons eligible under CAA-2019 to apply for the grant of Indian citizenship," a Home Ministry spokesperson said.

"The applications will be submitted in a completely online mode for which a web portal has been provided," the spokesperson added.

The CAA was passed in December 2019 and subsequently got the president's assent but there were protests in several parts of the country against it, with many opposition parties speaking out against the law calling it "discriminatory". The law could not come into effect as rules had not been notified till now.

The Congress and other opposition parties slammed the government's step, alleging it is designed to polarise the coming Lok Sabha elections, especially in West Bengal and Assam. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh also alleged that the announcement is yet another attempt to "manage the headlines" after the Supreme Court's strictures on the electoral bonds issue. PTI

'Politically motivated'

The Centre notifying the rules for the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is "politically motivated", keeping the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in mind, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Monday said.
He said this move shows the BJP's lack of confidence about winning more seats in the polls and coming to power. Speaking to reporters here, he said, the Central government led by BJP has made several decisions keeping the elections in mind. PTI

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Walk in Interview at
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17th Main, 100 Feet Road, Opp Canara Bank, 05th Block, Koramangala Bengaluru - 560034
Date: 12th Mar 24 & 13th Mar 24
Time: 11:00 AM to 6:30 PM &
Date: 14th Mar 24
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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Suma W/o Santhosh H P (H-Holenarsipura, P-Parashuram) aged about 35 Years R/at No. 716, 4th B Cross,1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, Banaswadi, B'luru-560043 have changed my name to Suma Devarahalli Rudrappa Vide Affidavit Dtd: 07/03/2024 Sworn Before Notary Uday Kumar K, B'luru

I, MOHAMMED ASLAM S/o Mohammed Hussain R/at No.154, New No.8/1, 1st Main Road, 5th Cross, E Street, J.J.R Nagar Bengaluru- 560018 have changed my name to MOHAMMED ASLAM PASHA vide affidavit dated: 27/2/2024 before Notary Deepa.M Bangalore.

I PINKY JAIN W/o Rhakesh Pokarana residing at PremRoshn, 24/987, 12th Cross, 1st Main Road, MRCR Layout, Vijaynagar, Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to PINKKE POKARANA, vide affidavit dated 11.03.2024 before notary G Dayananda, B'luru.

I RAKESH KUMAR S/o Roshanlal Pokharana r/o PremRoshn, 24/987, 12th Cross, 1st Main Road, MRCR Layout, Vijaynagar, Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to RHAKESH POKARANA, vide affidavit dated 11.03.2024 before notary G Dayananda, B'luru.

I, Swetha R S D/o Subbegowda, R/at # 643 G, 8th Main, 2nd cross, Behind Sanjay Petrol Bunk, Basaweshwar Nagar, Bengaluru 560079 have changed my name to Shwetha R S, for all purposes

I DINESH KUMAR JAIN S/o Roshanlal Pokharana residing at PremRoshn, 24/987, 12th Cross, 1st Main Road, MRCR Layout, Vijaynagar, Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to DINESH POKARANA, vide affidavit dated 11.03.2024 before notary G Dayananda, B'luru.

I HIMANSHI JAIN D/o Rhakesh Pokarana residing at PremRoshn, 24/987, 12th Cross, 1st Main Road, MRCR Layout, Vijaynagar, Bangalore 560040 have changed my name to HIMANSSI POKARANA, vide affidavit dated 11.03.2024 before notary G Dayananda, B'luru.

I, Aditya Varma R/o No 302, Golden Crescent Apartment, No 3, Davis Road, St.thomas Town, Blr-84 Changed My Name Keralavarma Chitra Aditya Varma to Aditya Varma for All Future Purposes

I, Shubham Manoj Deshmukh, R/o Thanisandra, Bangalore and S/o Manoj Deshmukh, have changed my name from Shubham Deshmukh to Shubham Manoj Deshmukh for all future purposes.

I, Sujatha Anilkumar w/o Anilkumar K L R/o S-602 Pramukh M M Meridian K R Road BSK 2nd Stage B'luru-560070 have changed my name to Sujatha Shivanna for all purposes.

I Supriya G D/O, Gunasheelan Lm R/o No.3,4th Cross, Sudhamanagar, Bangalore South Bengaluru 560027 have changed my name to Suphiya Muhammad.

I, Mohammed Zakir Hussain, S/o. Nizamuddin, R/o. #9/15, Madina Nagar, B'Halli, B'lore-68, have changed my name to ZAKIR HUSSAIN vide affidavit Dtd: 11/03/24 before Notary M. Rajendra, B'lore.

I Shaziya Begum W/o Mohammed Essa R/o #no11, New Bamboo Bazaar Rd, Shivaji Nagar, H.K.P Road B'lore-560051 Have Changed My Name To Shaziya Begum Essa.

I, Ganaganagoud C/o Lokappa B M R/o #1629, 3rd Main , 20th Cross , 7th Sector, HSR layout B'luru-560068 have changed my name to L M Gangadhar for all purposes.

I Md Essaq S/o Abdul Khuddus R/o #No11, New Bamboo bazaar road, Contonment, Bharathi nagar, H.K.P Road B'lore- 560051 have changed my name to Mohammed Essa.

I, INFY FREEDA A D/o Anthony Raj, R/at flat 001,Ayappa Temple street, oil Mill road,11th Cross Bangalore-84,have changed my name to AYESHA, Embraced to Islam, vide affidavit dt:06.03.2024 before notary Y.R Chandrasekar bangalore.

I SAGARIKA N RAJU D/o Narayana Raju, #1979, 20th Main, Between 3rd and 4th cross, JP Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore - 560078 have changed my name from SAGARIKA to SAGARIKA N RAJU, vide affidavit dated: 11.03.2024, before Notary - H G Venkataramu, Bengaluru.

I Ankitha Sanjay Gaba D/O, Sanjay Kumar Gaba R/o #47, 5th Block, 3rd Floor, Serpentine Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru -560020 have changed my name to Ankita Sanjay Gaba .

I Hema Lata Nisad w/o Brijesh Kumar R/o Flat No:706 A-Block Windsor Troika Apts Yellenahalli Begur Road Bengaluru-560068 have changed my name to Hemlata. vide Affidavit Dt: 11/03/2024 before notary B S Padmaprasad B'luru

I, Navaz Yakub Vanjara R/o Flat.005, 2nd cross, coconut garden, Prashanth Nagar, Peenya dasarahalli, Bengaluru 560057 have changed my name to Nawaz Yakub Vanjara affidavit Dt.11/03/2204 notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I Shreyas Atulkumar Parekh S/O, Atul Jaysukhlal Parekh R/o 19101, Sobha Dream Acres, Balagere, Panathur Main Road, Bangalore, 560087 have changed my name to Shreyas Atul Parekh.

I Sneha Srinivasan D/O, Srinivasan R/o G-1, Lakshmi Residency, 13th Cross, Gm Palya, Cauvery Colony, Cv Raman Nagar have changed my name to Sneha Srinivasan .

I Jain Princekumar S/O, Babulal Jain R/o No.375 8th Cross 6th Phase Mahaganpati Nagar Rajajinagar Banglore-10 have changed my name to Jain Prince.for all future purposes

I Shanthavva W/o L M Gangadhar R/o #1629, 3rd Main , 20th Cross , 7th Sector, HSR layout B'luru-560068 have changed my name to Shantha G M for all purposes

I, Kishan Nagarajan s/o M Nagarajan R/o #513 Gaja Nilaya Thataguni Village off kanakapura Main Road B'lore-560082 have changed my name to Kishan Raj Nagarajan.

I, Shazia Begum W/o Mohammed Essa R/o #no11, New Bamboo Bazaar Road, Shivaji Nagar,H.K.P Road B'lore-560051 have changed my name to Shaziya Begum Essa.

I, Mohamed Inamul Sawood S/o Mohammed Essa R/o #No 60/1,No 11,New Bamboo bazaar Rd,Shivaji nagar, B'lore-560051 have changed my name to Mohammed Inamool Sawood.

I, Rajendra Kumar Bangalore Rangaswamy S/o Rangaswamy Gowda Yaragunte Range gowda, R/a #272, 2nd Cross, 6th Main, Gnanajyothinagar, B.lore-56, have changed my name to Rajendra Bengalooru, affidavit dt- 07.03.2024 notary H.R. Panduranga, B.lore.

PART TIME JOBS

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It's just forest dept up against seasonal fires

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with small submersible motors and sprayers. This makes the vehicle act like a makeshift QRV. If a fire is next to a road, this vehicle will be useful. In certain areas, if near the road, we use water tankers. The department is taking all the action to ensure we rein in forest fires," said another official.

However, the department stated that firefighting is not entirely QRV-driven owing to hostile terrain that emergency vehicles cannot access.

BRT Tiger Reserve DCF and director Deepa J Contractor told BM that the fire in the tiger reserve a few days ago had to be put out manually due to difficult terrain.

"The importance of QRVs in putting out fires is a gross representation. At BRT Tiger Reserve, the terrain alters between 900 metres and 1,820 metres. Even the best emergency vehicles cannot be used in such terrain. The fire on Monday started at the top of the hill and was approaching the valley. Even if we had QRVs, we are not sure how much difference it would have made," said Contractor.

However, KFD officials said the speartment has raised a request for QRVs looking at weather conditions.

"We have anyway asked KSEFS for emergency vehicles that are in good condition. However, they have certain protocols to follow.

We have been told that the fire department has also requested the government to allow QRVs that are still in good condition to be operated. It is not feasible for the forest department to procure its vehicles as QRVs are expensive and not required throughout the year.

So when another government department has the wherewithal to maintain such vehicles, there is no reason for the forest department to procure them," said Kumar Pushkar, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (wildlife), Karnataka Forest Department.

124 Kere Mitra volunteers finalised

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

change) issued a circular on March 2 for more citizens to take part in the drive.

According to BBMP, one lake volunteer will be assigned to one lake. Apart from taking part in the regular maintenance activities and monitoring of the condition of lakes, the volunteers would help BBMP understand the citizen's requirements.

The Kere Mitras will monitor day-to-day maintenance activities such as pathway sweeping, weeding, inlet and outlet cleaning, and jungle clearance in the lake premises and enter the data on a digital application. In case of parks in the lake premises, works such as trimming, watering of plants, though the maintenance is done by the horticulture department, the same is to be monitored and reported on the lake monitoring application. The observation can be made in the application only when used in the registered lake since it is geofenced. The Kere Mitras are reassigned every three months.

The Kere Mitra programme is part of BBMP's effort to launch transparency in lake management. Along with Kere Mitra, BBMP launched an online lake monitoring system that takes a tally of total lakes, and zonal-wise data collection on inspections undertaken by BBMP, the maintenance agency, and Kere Mitras. Currently, the online platform shows visitations by Kere Mitras in all zones except for the south zone.

HEALTH TIP: When you lose too much fluid or don't drink enough water, it can lead to constipation

Lemon juice, offering 3 calories per tablespoon, provides approximately 13 calories in a quarter cup

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WORRIED ABOUT MONEY?

Ways to keep your kids from feeling your stress

When it comes to parents and children, money stress can be contagious.

That's what Amy Weimer, director of the School of Family and Consumer Sciences at Texas State University, found when she and a colleague studied 60 children last year. They were more likely to report feeling worried if their parents were experiencing long-term financial stress.

"As a parent, if I know I'm in deep debt, I would want to do something to address that issue so it doesn't trickle down and have an impact on my child's mental well-being," Weimer says. Parents may want to seek financial counseling to help with debt management, for example, if they are experiencing financial strain, she adds.

According to researchers and financial professionals, there are also other steps parents can take to help teach their children about money without sharing their financial worries with them.

TALK ABOUT MONEY EARLY

Talking about money with children during neutral moments can help establish a comfort level with financial discussions, says Justin Rush, a certified financial planner and founder of JGR Financial Solutions in Canton, Ohio.

On a recent drive with his son, a seventh grader, and father, the trio started talking about the price of a McDonald's Big Mac, which led to a conversation about inflation. Those kinds of chats can lead to discussions about budgeting and other financial lessons, Rush says, which sets a baseline for speaking about money with ease.

"Some parents think they are doing kids a service by not talking about adulting stuff early on," says Kimberly Watkins, assistant professor in financial planning at the University of Georgia, who adds that you can start talking about money with children as young as age three. But the reality is, she says, avoiding the topic can create a "generational cycle" of financial unawareness, which can ultimately lead to more money stress.

LEARN TOGETHER

Sometimes, Watkins says, learning about finances can be a family project that benefits both parents and children. "Be comfortable with letting kids know you don't know everything," she says. If your child asks you a question about money you can't answer, then you can find out together.

Watkins suggests using the "Money as You Grow" website from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for ideas on topics to explore together, such as the financial ramifications of buying a pet or moving to a new house. Your bank or credit union might offer additional online resources to help your family, she adds.

CONSIDER LANGUAGE CHOICES CAREFULLY

Because children often interpret words so literally, using phrases like, "we don't have the money for that" in response to requests can be confusing, says Pam Horack, a CFP at Pathfinder Planning in Lake Wylie, South Carolina. Instead, she suggests saying something like, "That's not in our budget right now."

That small language shift helps a child understand that parents are constantly making choices and trade-offs when it comes to money, she adds, which can ultimately be an empowering realization.

Megan McCoy, an assistant professor in the personal financial planning department at Kansas State, suggests also being mindful of how you might talk to sons and daughters differently about money, even if it's by accident.

"One old study talked about how daughters were more likely to get messages around saving, and sons more likely to get messages around earning," she says. "That could contribute to risk tolerance or picking a job with the right earning potential. It could make a big impact."

BE STRAIGHTFORWARD ABOUT FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS

For parents going through a particularly stressful time such as a job loss, Weimer suggests sharing the news in an age-appropriate way rather than trying to mask it. For example, to a young child, you could explain that you lost your job but are working hard to find a new one while a teenager could understand the nuances of layoffs and job searching on LinkedIn.

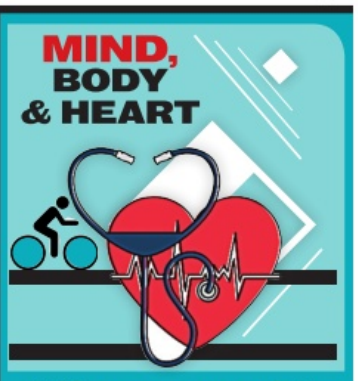
"It might seem counterintuitive, but by sharing more about money, your children will feel less anxious," says Gregg Murset, a CFP and CEO of BusyKid, a debit card and chore app for kids. He suggests reassuring them that some things won't change, such as your ability to feed and house them, while explaining that other expenditures, like going out to dinner, may have to stop, at least for now.

INVITE KIDS TO CONTRIBUTE

In some cases, children can contribute to the household more during a financial hardship such as a job loss, and that can help them regain a sense of control. A teenager, for example, can reduce the emotional stress of a parent juggling multiple jobs or working long hours by picking up additional chores around the house, Weimer says.

"It helps them recognise they contribute to the overall family well-being, too, whether that's cutting back on expenses or just reducing parental anxiety in other ways," she says.

—AP



All you need to know about...

Why pigmentation stays

Incomplete sun protection
Incomplete sun protection **or** Irregular use of sunscreen can hinder pigmentation improvement. Consistent exposure to UV rays , dust, and pollution can exacerbate existing pigmentation issues.

Insufficient/irregular Treatment Duration
Treating pigmentation often takes time.
If you've recently started a treatment / skin care routine to see visible improvement, it takes take at least 4-5 months .
Patience and consistency are key.
Also, taking timely treatments is important as delaying it can lead to some permanent damage.

Various underlying health issues
Certain medical conditions like insulin resistance , hormonal imbalances, or medication side effects can contribute to persistent pigmentation issues.
So even if you are using a consistent skincare routine or taking treatments without addressing these underlying medical concerns, you will not find improvement in pigmentation.

Improper Skincare Routine
Using incorrect or harsh products (like physical scrubs) or not following a prescribed skincare regimen (over exfoliating / not moisturising / not using adequate quantities of the prescribed products) might impede pigmentation improvement or even worsen it.

Stress and lifestyle
At the end of it all , skin is an outer expression of inner well being . Stress, lack of sleep, poor diet, or unhealthy habits like SMOKING can impact skin health and hinder the effectiveness of pigmentation treatments.

—By Dr Priyanka Reddy, DNA Skin Clinic, for Femina

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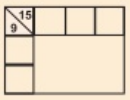
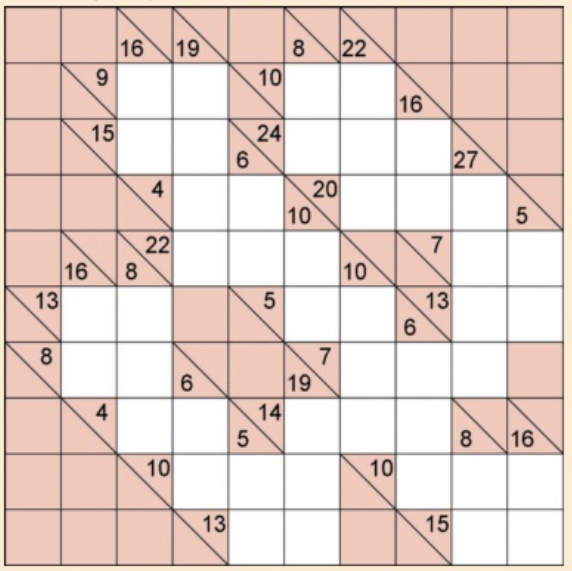
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

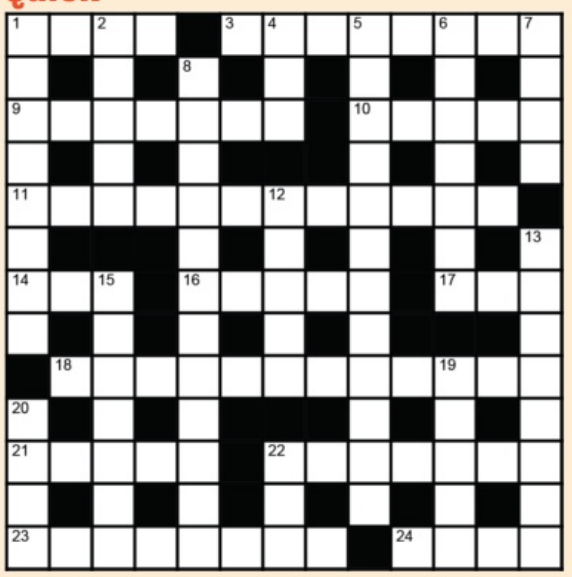


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Small length (4)
3 Lack of fat (8)
9 Deprecates or disapproves? (7)
10 Hearty enjoyment (5)
11 Dialogue (12)
14 Entirely or completely (3)
16 Fey (5)
17 Evergreen tree (3)
18 Bull temple locale (12)
21 Capital of Vietnam (5)
22 Great musician (7)
23 Compensated for or atoned for (4,4)
24 Upper limbs (4)

DOWN

1 Impossible to weaken or contradict (8)
2 Music from Louisiana (5)
4 Greek goddess of dawn (3)
5 Songbirds (12)
6 Slacken gradually (4,3)
7 Polluted air (4)
8 Going faster or speeding up (12)
12 Bulgarian capital (5)
13 Turncoats (8)
15 Committed to memory (7)
19 Speak or say (5)
20 Mate (4)
22 China's thoughtful Chairman (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS G

K TKACWK NI K YLLS ZLW SCK-WVNVR OLD YL ICC DNYOLMY K TKACWK.

Linemaro

Are you WiFi because I think we have a connection?

Mindchow

No man has been honoured for what he received; honour is the reward for what he gave

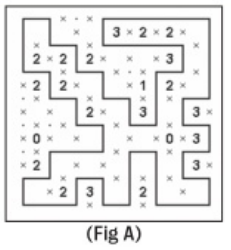
Joke of the day

Rajinikanth and Superman once agreed to a fight, the loser had to wear their underwear on the outside of their pants

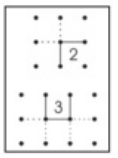
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

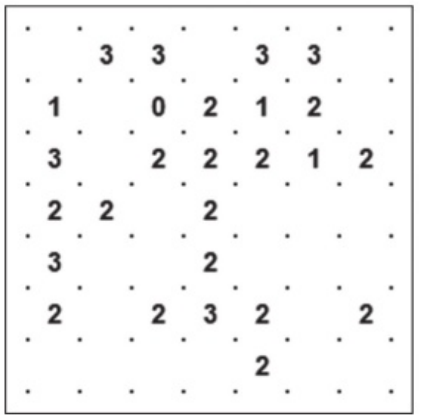


(Fig B) Not Allowed

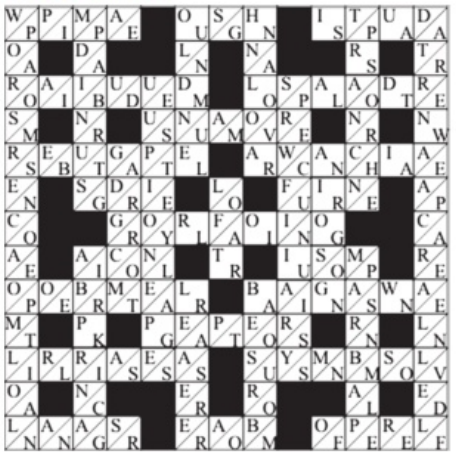
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



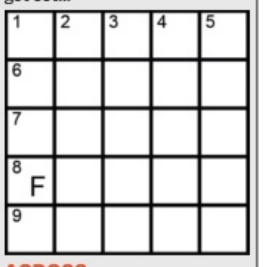
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

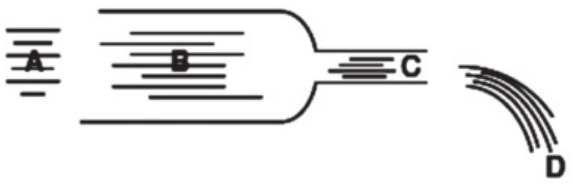
1 Harks; 6 Otter; 7 Via so; 8 FL One; 9 A waft

DOWN

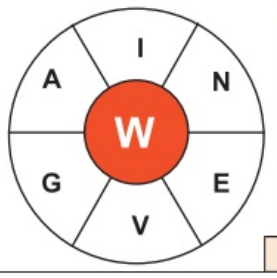
1 F Fats; 2 Ova he; 3 Tital; 4 Serow; 5 Akron

Mensapuzzle

A large volume of water is gushing through a pipe which narrows at the outlet. At which point, A, B, C or D will the water flow fastest?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		7					1	3
					6			
		6		3	8	7		
	2		8				9	7
8			1		9			2
7	9				2		4	
		5	2	6		1		
			5					
1	4					9		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 9

2 2 3 8

Medium = 10

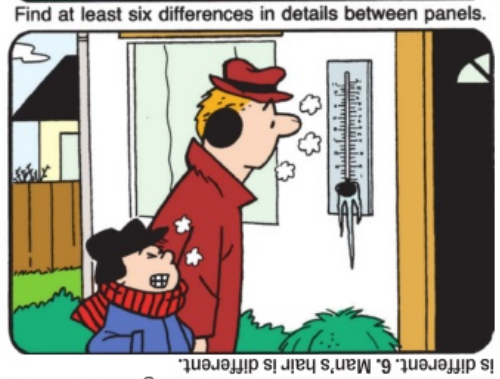
3 3 3 7

Hard = 63

2 7 9 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



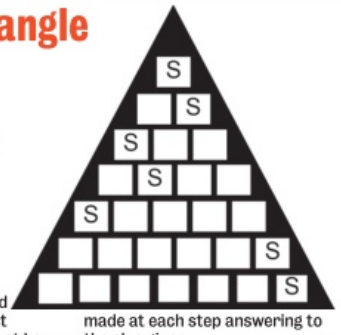
Differences: 1. Icicle is longer. 2. Curtain is different. 3. Bush is smaller. 4. Windowsill is missing. 5. Window in door is different. 6. Man's hair is different.

Riddler

What is the next number in the following series?
123, 354, 897, 1875, 10626, ?

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Good _ it gets
3 Halibut's home
4 Ignoble
5 Porthos' weapon
6 Goatees
7 Files



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I'M NOT GONNA CHEAT ON THIS TEST. I WON'T EVEN LOOK AT MY HAND!
HEY, I ACTUALLY KNOW A LOT OF THESE ALREADY.
THERE'S NO WAY THIRTY MINUTES OF STUDYING ACTUALLY WORKED.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
ANDREWS MCMEEL

Crankshaft

DINNER WAS WONDERFUL... AND NOW FOR AN AFTER-DINNER TREAT!
WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE RUM BALLS!? THERE'S ONLY TWO LEFT!!
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME SETTLING WHEN YOU BROUGHT IT OVER...
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12-16

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Today, you may find yourself in a state of self-analysis, which will bring some confidence in you. Your focus towards your goals is now clear and you may get success to achieve your goal. Your creativity might improve and you will take interest in artefacts, movies, glamour and hi-tech objects. At the end of the day, you may be satisfied with your life. Your opponents may be under control now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Today, you may help needy people around you. This will increase your reputation among your peers. New ideas may come into your mind and you are likely to help other people around you. You might implement an innovation into work, which may increase your business. Love birds may plan for a trip or some adventure tour.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Today, you may be dissatisfied. You have some sort of detachment towards your responsibilities, which may make you confused. You may plan hypothetically for your projects. You are advised to be practical in your work to complete it on time. You may also take care of your parents. If you are planning to migrate somewhere, it is advised to postpone it for some days.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Today is a positive day for you and you may get success from your hard work on the professional and domestic front. You may have good focus and you may complete your work on time, which can improve your self-confidence. You may also expect some work-related short trips, which may be beneficial in the near future in terms of your network.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Today, you may be busy with domestic issues. You may spend money in buying some artefacts or household items. You are advised to control spending on worthless items otherwise it may attract negative energy in the house. You are also advised to control your harsh way of speaking with the people around you.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Today, you may feel comfortable after a messy situation. Your vitality may help you to implement some difficult decisions in parental business, which may help in its expansion. You may help needy people around, which may increase your social respect. Students might be clear about choosing their career options.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Today you may feel dull and your health may not be good. You may also have anxiety and restlessness. You are advised to postpone some important investments in the business or real estate. You are advised to avoid rash driving. You should avoid long-distance travelling also. You may do some meditation, which will be helpful for sound sleep.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Today, blessings from elders' may make you happy and your invest- ments may give you profits. Losses are converted into profits now. Your savings may boost your bank balance. You may plan to invest in the kid's future also. You may also enjoy some delicious food at home. Your problems related to throat, teeth, ear or nose may be resolved now.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Today, you are blessed by elders. Your patience becomes very good, your focus towards your work may be very good. Parent's health issues are sorted out. You are likely to spend time with elders. You may also meet some influential person, who may help you on the professional front. You may also enjoy your romantic moments which may increase harmony in domestic life.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Today, you may be spiritual and you may help needy people around you. You also plan to donate some amount to a charity or religious place. Your good karma may help you get success in your difficult projects. You may feel some divine power around you that may help you in unpredictable situations. You may be attracted to the occult. Students are likely to enjoy in-depth study.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Today you may feel dull and you may be a victim of hidden fear, which may make you scared. You are not in a position to trust anyone. It is advised to do meditation, chant some prayer, which may help you come out of this situation. With the help of an elder's blessings around late evening, you may come out from this messy situation.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Today, you may be busy at work and your network may be increased. With the help of the network, you are likely to get a big order in terms of business and work. You are likely to start innovation in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase your business in the near future. Professionals related to films, glamour, household items, interiors will do well.

KIDZONE

Keziah Zoie, 5 years, Greenwood High

Sashank S, 9 years, The Vruksha School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER

The next number in the series is 16887. Take the first number and move the number in the unit's place to the ten's place. Add the number in the ten's, the number in the unit's place to the hundred's and the number in hundred's unit's place. Add the original number with the number obtained from shuffling the digits to get the next number in the series.

SOLVE IN 1M

(1/8)÷(1/4)]×(1/2)
= (1/2)(1/2)
= 1/4

FAST FIVE

S	H	A	R	K
T	O	T	E	R
A	V	I	S	O
F	E	L	O	N
F	A	T	W	A

STRIKE OUT

W	I	P	E		U	G	H		S	P	U	D		
A		A		N		A		R		A		R		
R	A	I	D	E	D		L	P	L	A	T	E		
M		N		S	U	A	V	E		N		W		
R	E	T	A	P	E		A	C	A	C	I	A		
E		S	R	I		O		U	R	E		P		
C			G	O	L	F	I	N	G			A		
E		I	O	N		T		I	O	M		R		
P	O	R	T	A	L		B	A	N	A	N	A		
T	K		G	A	P	E	R		R		L			
I	R	I	S	E	S		S	Y	M	B	O	L		
N	A	G	S		R	A	M		F	E	E	L		

QUICK

M	A	D	E		G	O	O	D		A	R	M	S	
U		E		N		A		S		E		R		
H	A	N	O	I		M	A	E	S	T	R	O		
C		R		T			L		T			T		
B	A	S	A	V	A	N	A	G	U	D	I			
D		E		R		I		G				A		
A	L	L	E	L	F	I	N		F	I	R			
L			L	O		I		F		T				
C	O	N	V	E	R	S	A	T	I	O	N			
N		U		C		H		E		G				
O	B	J	E	C	T	S		G	U	S	T	O		
R		A		O		I		A		M				
I	N	C	H		L	E	A	N	N	E	S	S		

SUDOKU

4	8	7	9	2	5	6	1	3
2	3	9	7	1	6	4	8	5
5	1	6	4	3	8	7	2	9
6	2	1	8	4	3	5	9	7
8	5	4	1	7	9	3	6	2
7	9	3	6	5	2	8	4	1
9	7	5	2	6	4	1	3	8
3	6	8	5	9	1	2	7	4
1	4	2	3	8	7	9	5	6

MENSA PUZZLE

C: the water flows fastest at the narrowest point.

QUOTE UNCODE

A camera is a tool for learning how to see without a camera.

BULL'S EYE

anew, awing, gnaw, view, wage, waive, wane, wave, wing, waving, wean, WEAVING, wine,

GO FIGURE

Easy
8 + 2 + 2 − 3 = 9
Medium
3 / 3 x 3 + 7 = 10
Hard
6 x 9 + 2 + 7 = 63

ALPHA TRIANGLE

S, As, Sea,
Base, Sabre,
Beards,
Abrades.

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Tribute to Nitin Desai
Late Bollywood art director Nitin Chandrakant Desai was accorded an emotional tribute during the Oscars' 'In Memoriam' segment alongside Tina Turner, Matthew Perry and many more

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Entertainment Industry Promotion

Awards in the time of war

'Oppenheimer' crowned best picture at Academy Awards in shadow of war

'Oppenheimer', a solemn three-hour biopic that became an unlikely billion-dollar box-office sensation, was crowned best picture at a 96th Academy Awards that doubled as a coronation for Christopher Nolan.

After passing over arguably Hollywood's foremost big-screen auteur for years, the Oscars made up for lost time by heaping seven awards on Nolan's blockbuster biopic, including best actor for Cillian Murphy, best supporting actor for Robert Downey Jr. and best director for Nolan.

In anointing "Oppenheimer," the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences did something it hasn't done for more than a decade: hand its top prize to a widely seen, big-budget studio film. "For better or worse, we're all living in Oppenheimer's world," said Murphy in his acceptance speech. "I'd like to dedicate this to the peacemakers."

Sunday's Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles unfolded against the backdrop of wars in Gaza and Ukraine, and with a potentially momentous U.S. election on the horizon.

Awards for the documentary winner, "20 Days in Mariupol," and best international film, "The Zone of Interest," brought geopolitics into the Oscar spotlight.

The most closely watched contest went to Emma Stone, who won best best actress for her performance as Bella Baxter in "Poor Things." "Oh, boy, this is really overwhelming," said Stone, who fought back tears and a broken dress during her speech.

Sunday's broadcast had razzle dazzle, including a sprawling song-and-dance rendition of the "Barbie" hit "I'm Just Ken" by Ryan Gosling, with an assist on guitar by Slash and a sea of Kens who swarmed the stage.

But protest and politics intruded on an election-year Academy Awards. Late during the show, host Jimmy Kimmel read a critical social media post from former president Donald Trump.

Nolan has had many movies in the Oscar mix before, including "Inception," "Dunkirk" and "The Dark Knight." But his win Sunday for direction is the first Academy Award for the 53-year-old filmmaker. Downey, nominated twice before (for "Chaplin" and "Tropic Thunder"), also notched his first Oscar, crowning the illustrious second act of his up-and-down career. "I'd like to thank my terrible childhood and the academy, in that order," said Downey.

—AP

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Song launch

Kerebete, the forthcoming Kannada movie, has been creating a lot of buzz in Sandalwood with its unique promotional events. Producer and hero Gowri Shankar is leaving no stone unturned to promote his latest movie. Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar extended her support by releasing Kerebete's third song – Kannugale Kaledu Hodaaga on Saturday.

Kantara fame Pramod Maruvanthe has written the lyrics while Gagan Baderiya has scored music for the song – Kannugale Kaledu Hodaaga.

Gowri Shankar thanked Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar for making it to the function despite her busy schedule. "Ashwini ma'am told me that she may not be able to attend the function as she would be busy on Saturday but she decided to attend the function after watching the trailer of Kerebete. I felt very happy when Ashwini ma'am told me that she wanted to watch the movie," said Gowri Shankar.

Superhero concept

The dubbed version of Telugu movie HanuMan, a superhero movie, was released in January. It became a huge success at the box office. Now, a Kannada movie – The End – is set to be released in five parts in nine languages. The movie, billed as the first superhero movie in Kannada, has the tagline – Preamble.

The lyrical video – Hanuman Chalisa – of the movie was released on Mah Shivaratri. The specialty of the lyrical audio launch was that it happened simultaneously at five temples. Prominent personalities of Sandalwood including producer Shilpa Srinivas, Manjunath, Dharhashri Manjunath, Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce vice president Venkatesh attended the event.

Director Pavan Kumar said the shooting for the first part of the movie is in its final stage and it is expected to be completed in five days. "Discussions are on with veteran character artiste and hero of yesteryears Anant Nag to play a special character in the movie. It is based on 18 Puranas. We have used Hanuman Chalisa for this movie. Arun Andrew scored music," said Pavan Kumar.